

drainage is poor and elevational changes are only a few feet. Such flat areas occur northeast of Hurdle Mills in the southwestern part of the county, north and west of Denny Store in the far eastern portion, and northeast of Timberlake in the southeastern portion.

Person County lies in three watersheds/river basins (see Figure 2). The upper Roanoke/Dan river basin covers the northern and western 55% of the county. The Hyco River, which flows northeastward into Virginia, is the major river. The major tributaries to the Hyco, all tending to flow northward, are (from west to east) Cobbs Creek, South Hyco Creek, Ghent Creek, Storys Creek, Marlowe Creek, Castle Creek, Mill Creek, and Mayo Creek. In fact, the Hyco River has been dammed to form two reservoirs – Hyco Reservoir and After Bay Reservoir, used by Progress Energy for hydroelectric power. Likewise, Mayo Creek has been dammed by Progress Energy, also for hydroelectric power, to create Mayo Reservoir. Two smaller reservoirs lie along Storys Creek northwest of Roxboro – City Lake (called Water Works Lake or Roxboro Lake on some maps) and Chub Lake. The poorly named Roxboro Lake, which is mainly in neighboring Caswell County to the west, lies along the upper portion of South Hyco Creek. The lower portions of several creeks, near their confluence with the Hyco River, contain surprisingly wide floodplains, some over ½-mile wide. These include Storys Creek, Marlowe Creek, and Castle Creek.

The southern 30-35% of the county lies in the upper Neuse river basin. The Flat River is the principal drainage, and it splits into two main branches; the South Flat River flows eastward across the southern part of the county, whereas the North Flat River flows southeastward, beginning just south of Roxboro. Major tributaries include Bushy Fork Creek, Byrds Creek, Lick Creek, Alderidge Creek, Chappels Creek, and especially Deep Creek. The remaining 10-15% of the county, along the eastern and southeastern edge close to Granville County, lies in the upper Tar river basin. The Tar River itself, flowing southeastward, is the primary drainage, and its main tributary in Person County is Cub Creek.

There are essentially no dams along the Flat River or Tar River, or their tributaries, in Person County. Thus, except for numerous isolated farm ponds, or beaver ponds on small streams, practically all of the lakes/reservoirs in the county lie in the upper Roanoke/Dan basin.

## **Geology and Soils**

Three geologic regions are present in the county (see Figure 3). The northwestern 15% of the county lies in a region called the Milton Belt on the N.C. Geology Map (North Carolina Geological Survey 1985). This region is underlain by metamorphic rocks, mainly biotite gneiss and schist. The NC NHP includes this in its Northern Piedmont terrestrial physiographic region. Some of the rocks are mafic, such as amphibolite, yielding high pH (circumneutral to basic) soils, but most are felsic, which weather to produce acidic soils.